



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 154

February Session, 2000

An Act Concerning High School Diplomas And Veterans Of World War II.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) [Commencing] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
4 section, commencing with classes graduating in 1988, and for each
5 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
6 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
7 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a
8 minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in
9 English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in
10 social studies, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the
11 arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical
12 education. Any student who presents a certificate from a physician
13 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
14 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
15 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
16 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
17 be fulfilled by an elective. Determination of eligible credits shall be at
18 the discretion of the local or regional board of education, provided the
19 primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly
20 to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The local or

21 regional board of education may permit a student to graduate during a
22 period of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board
23 determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary
24 credits pursuant to this section. The requirements of this section shall
25 apply to any student requiring special education pursuant to section
26 10-76a, except when the planning and placement team for such student
27 determines the requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this
28 section, a credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-
29 minute class period for each school day of a school year except for a
30 credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an
31 institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or
32 regionally accredited. Only courses taken in grades nine through
33 twelve, inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that
34 a local or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1)
35 toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
36 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
37 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
38 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; or (2) toward meeting
39 the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
40 completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the
41 Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-
42 credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall
43 equal one-half credit for purposes of this section. A local or regional
44 board of education may offer one-half credit in community service
45 which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify for high school
46 graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided such community
47 service is supervised by a certified school administrator or teacher and
48 consists of not less than fifty hours of actual service that may be
49 performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not less
50 than ten hours of related classroom instruction. For purposes of this
51 section, community service does not include partisan political
52 activities. The State Board of Education shall assist local and regional
53 boards of education in meeting the requirements of this section.

54 (b) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to a

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55 veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, as amended, who
56 left high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed
57 forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a
58 consequence of such service.

59 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect May 29, 2000.

ED Committee Vote: Yea 30 Nay 0 JFS